has now been in existence only for a year. Experiments are proceeding, both in British India and other Native States, in the task of associating the people with the Government. In no field of human activities is the maxim '*Hasten slowly*' more applicable than in the field of constitutional changes. The welfare and prosperity of the subjects of the State depend in a large measure on this. We will, therefore, do well to benefit by the success of these experiments elsewhere rather than jeopardise the stability of the administration by hasty innovations. The time we have lived through, though full of promise, has not been, I believe, sufficiently long to justify further trials.

Communal questions.—These have come in for a good deal of observation in the course of the debate, and they hinge on two points, viz., distribution of appointments and social disabilities. Both aspects of the question have been touched upon frequently on previous occasions, and I am afraid there is nothing new to say on the subject. We cannot, however, ignore the fact that the history of the last thirty years will bear ample evidence to the fact that the Government have taken the initiative and supplied the propelling force to employ, in larger numbers, members of the so-called depressed classes in Government service and to minimise the rigour of social disabilities. Regretable as these disabilities may be—and they are to-day comparatively small—any one with a sense of responsibility will hesitate to remove them with a stroke of the pen. Social disabilities are no monoply of the Cochin State, and every country in the world shares it in one form or other. They die hard with the wakening and progress of the people, and if I am not mistaken, the changes in Cochin have taken place more quickly and quietly than in other places. This is a point on which we must congratulate ourselves.

Expenditure on Establishment.—The criticism on this score has been general, and the Special Finance Committee is considering this along with other questions. Without prejudicing the possible conclusions of that body, I venture to ask what is the secret which has secured the administration of Cochin that purity and progress which many of the members have claimed for it? If my diagnosis is correct, I will say that the secret is that we pay the higher grade of our officers adequately, and this keeps them above wants and temptation so that they can do their duty without fear or favour. Once apply your pruning knife to it, and you will be lucky, if you still continue to maintain the present moral stamina of the administration.

In regard to low-paid servants, the Government are fully alive to their grievances, and the sooner they are remedied the better for

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